Conversion of MG line into BG line from Delhi to Ahmedabad

915. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the conversion of the Delhi-Ahmedabad metre gauge line into broad gauge would boost the development prospect of the important industrial towns of Ahmedabad and Jaipur;

(b) if so, what are the difficulties in accepting this outstanding demand of Rajasthan state; and

(c) whether any provision has been made during 1991-92 in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Delhi-Ahmedabad metre gauge line is an important trunk route which is working quite satisfactory. It has been upgraded to permit maximum permissible speed of 100 kmph for passenger trains Double line exists on critical sections between Delhi-Rewari, Jaipur-Daurai and Bhandu Matidev-Sabarmati. Doubling work between Garhi Harsaru and Khalilpur has already been taken up. Conversion of this long route into BG will involve very heavy investment and will adversely affect vital connections between MG network on the northern and eastern parts of the country with the South. The Railways are also facing severe constraint of resources for gauge conversions. There is, therefore, no proposal for conversion of this route at present.

(c) No, Sir.

Share of Yamuna water

916. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the issue pertaining to sharing of Yamuna water amongst the concerned States was considered in a meeting of the Standing Committee on inter-State issues in Water Resources held in September, 1990, and subsequent meeting of the officers of the concerned States held on 11th February, 91;

(b) if so, what are the details and outcome thereof; and

(c) what is the present position of Rajasthan State's claim in the share for Yamuna water?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) Yes, Sir. It was decided in the meeting of the Standing Committee held in September 1990 that the Chairman, Central Water Commission would convene meetings with the representatives of Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Haryana and the Union Territory of Delhi to finalise the figures of their committed utilisation of Yamuna waters, that the Minister of Water Resources would thereafter hold discussions separately with the Chief Miinsters and that the matter would be bruoght up again before the Standing Committee with a view to arrive at a consensus on the allocation of Yamuna waters.

(b) In pursuance of the decision taken in the Standing Committee, the Chairman, Central Water Commission, had discussions first separately in September-October, 1990 and then jointly with the representatives of the States on 13.2.91. No concensus however could be reached on the figures of committed utilisation and it was agreed that the Chairman, Central Water Commission may submit his report to the Ministry on the basis of these discussions with the States. His report was received on 15th July, 1991.

(c) Rajasthan is at present utilising 0.1 Billion Cubic metrers (BCM) of Yamuna Waters mainly for drinking water supply. Against the availabilty of 11.46 BCM of waters in river Yamuna at Okhla, the basin States have claimed 49.9 BCM, of which Rajasthan's claim is 7.75 BCM. Rajasthan's final share in the Yamuna waters will depend upon the States reaching an agreement on the final allocation of Yamuna waters.